

C.) AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as set forth below. The status of each claim is shown next to each claim number; current additions are shown by underlines and deletions are shown by strikethrough or double brackets where strikethrough is not readily seen.

1. (Previously presented) A method for attaching a mechanical fastener to an absorbent article comprising the steps of:
  - a) providing said absorbent article;
  - b) providing said mechanical fastener;
  - c) applying a slow-crystallizing hot melt adhesive to said absorbent article in a target area; and
  - d) attaching said mechanical fastener to said absorbent article in the target area with said slow-crystallizing hot melt adhesive under conditions sufficient to result in a mechanical fastener/absorbent article bond static shear strength of at least about 60 min/1.2 kg.
2. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein said mechanical fastener/absorbent article bond static shear strength is at least about 240 min/1.2 kg.
3. (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein said absorbent article comprises an ear tab, an elastomer substrate attached to said ear tab, and a film substrate attached to said elastomer substrate, wherein said target area with slow-crystallizing hot melt adhesive is located on said film substrate.
4. (Original) The method according to claim 3 wherein said elastomer substrate is selected from the group consisting of a nonwoven and a laminate structure.
5. (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein said slow-crystallizing hot melt adhesive is applied to the target area of said absorbent article at a temperature below about 325 °F.
6. (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein said slow-crystallizing hot melt adhesive is applied to the target area of said absorbent article using a process

selected from the group consisting of slot coating, solid shim coating, comb shim coating, and spray-on techniques.

7. (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein said slow-crystallizing hot melt adhesive is applied to the target area of said absorbent article in an amount less than about 0.045 grams/target area.
8. (Previously presented) An absorbent article comprising:
  - a) a liquid pervious topsheet;
  - b) a liquid impervious backsheet joined to said topsheet;
  - c) an absorbent core positioned between said topsheet and said backsheet;  
and
  - d) at least one mechanical fastener positioned so as to secure the absorbent article to an intended user, wherein the mechanical fastener is attached to said absorbent article using a slow-crystallizing hot melt adhesive under conditions sufficient to result in a mechanical fastener/absorbent article bond static shear strength of at least about 60 min/1.2kg.
9. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 8 further comprising:
  - a) an ear tab attached to said backsheet;
  - b) an elastomer substrate attached to said ear tab; and
  - c) a film substrate attached to said elastomer substrate, wherein said mechanical fastener is attached to said film substrate.
10. (Currently amended) The absorbent article of claim 8 wherein said mechanical fastener is a hook-type fastener tab.